Production of Nutmeg

3481. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of nutmeg during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of nutmeg is adequate to meet the domestic demand in the country; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the government to increase the production of nutmeg by encouraging the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Official statistics of production of Nutmeg in the country are not available. Rough estimates of production for three years are given below:-

States	*Production (Tonnes)*		
	1987-88	*1988-89*	*1989-90*
Kerala	2385	2596	2768
Karnataka	64	65	67
Tamil Nadu	15	20	25

(b) No, Sir. Small quantities of nutmeg are imported every year to bridge the gap between the domestic production and demand..

(c) The following schemes are being implemented for encouraging the cultivation of Nutmeg:-

i) Quality planting material is produced and distributed to farmers at 50% subsidy on cost of seedlings.

ii) Subsidy at 25% of the cost or Rs. 3000/- per irrigation unit, which ever is less is provided to Nutmeg farmers.

iii) A 5 hectare progeny orchard for production of quality seed material has been established in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Fourth Round of Bidding for oil exploration

3482. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for holding the fourth round of bidding for oil exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the bids held earlier, the countries which participated along with the results of each bid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b).

Government of India has invited bids from foreign and Indian private companies in 72 blocks - 39 offshore and 3 onshore - under the Fourth Round of bidding. The last date for receipt of bids is 29.2.1992.

(c) (i) In 1980, 32 blocks - 17 offshore and 15 onshore - were offered under first Round of bidding. One Production Sharing Contract with M/s. Chevron of USA was signed. No oil was discovered.

(i) In 1982, 50 Blocks, 42 offshore and 8 onshore blocks were offered under Second Round of bidding. But no Production Sharing Contract was signed.

(iii) In 1986, 27 offshore blocks were offered under Thrid Round of bids. Production Sharing Contracts for nine blocks were signed with five foreign oil companies from USA. Netherlands, Dubai and Australia. No hydrocarbons have been didscovered.

Water Resources Projects of Global Infrastructure fund

3483. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which India propose to participate in the Water Resources projects of Global Infrastructure fund;

(b) the details of benefits likely it be derived therefrom; and

(c) the manner in which India propose to raise funds for this participation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). India propose to participate in Kosi and Tipaimukh high dam water resources projects under Global Infrastructure Fund. Nepal and India will benefit from Kosi project and India and Bangladesh from Tipaimukh Project. The Manner of funding for the projects has not been decided.

Coal deposits

3484. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has proven reserves of Prime coking coal;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof;

(c) the specific steps taken so far to make use of this large deposit of coking coal; and

(d) the quantum of such coal exploite

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) and (b). As on 1.1.91, Geological Survey of India (GSI) have estimated a total of 23,331.72 million tonnes of coking coal reserves up-to a depth of 600 meters and in seams having thickness up-to 0.5 meters. The category-wise details of the coal reserves are given as under :-

(in million tonnes)

		Proved	*Indicated*	*Inferred*	*Total*
i)	Prime Coking	3713.00	326.00	-	4039.00
ii)	Medium Coking	8889.37	8327.99	801.50	18018.86
iii)	Semi-Coking	343.61	614.93	315.32	1273.86
	Total	12,945.98	9,268.92	1,116.82	23,331.72